

DALE LONGLITZ

AN HISTORICAL REVIEW OF
HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION
IN THE MACKENZIE DELTA

MAINTAINED BY THE INQUIRY
EXHIBIT NO. VED A E Feb 17/76
Inuvik report
PUT IN BY C.O.P.E.

A SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE
PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF
COPE

BERGER INQUIRY - DELTA PHASE
Inuvik, February 1976

I propose to present a picture of exploration activity as I perceive it from my work. I will limit the areal coverage to the portion of the Delta represented on this 1:400,000 scale map. The portion is outlined by the shaded area. (Illustrations). The area will be displayed later on 1:250,000 scale.

The exploration activity is broken down into two basic categories:

1. exploration activity prior to 1971
2. exploration activity after 1971

In presenting the activity prior to 1971, I must qualify myself in that I lack the personal knowledge to present the activity as I was not involved with the programs prior to 1971 and the Territorial Land Use Regulations. Prior to 1969, the exploration was administered under a Notice of Commencement letter issued to the Oil and Gas Division in Ottawa. (Will explain further when I receive the maps and details from Ottawa). I will include when activity started up and approximate areas of concentrations. (Show maps representing prior years).

Between the time frame of 1969 to 1971 the programs were administered by the Northern Economic Development Branch of DIAND, in the following method:

- A letter of intent and preliminary plan was submitted to DIAND. This letter set out, in general terms, a description of the proposed operation and included approximate dates of commencement and completion, a description of the types and approximate numbers of transport fuel storage, camps and other support equipment, the approximate location of access routes and staging areas, and such other information that is available which would permit the Director in Ottawa to make preliminary appraisal of the proposed

operation and to assess the likely impact of the operation on the affected land surface and adjacent ecosystems. This letter was to be accompanied by a preliminary plan showing the approximate location of the activity, including staging areas, airstrips, access routes, and such other features and facilities associated with the operation and the use, installation or construction of which may have a significant effect on the land surface and adjacent ecosystem.

Following receipt of this letter and map the Director after consideration and approval would forward an agreement in principle outlining a Schedule of Operating Conditions to the Operator for his agreement. This agreement was then to be signed by the Operator as agreed to and returned to the Director before commencement of the activity. The enforcement of the conditions was carried out by the Mackenzie Forest Service now called Northwest Land & Forest Service. (I will explain the areal extent of activity and number of wells drilled.)

Late in 1971 with the implementation of the Territorial Land Use Regulations, the Permit system and enforcement procedure already described in my previous testimony came into existence.

In order to display the activity I propose to utilize the mapping series 1:250,000, at this scale 1 inch equals approximately 4 miles. To better explain the significance of each line, if I drew a line to scale on that map it would be barely visible, i.e., a wellsite in actual scale would be represented as a fine dot whereas on these maps it is a small circle. (The activity has been plotted from the preliminary and final plans submitted under the permit system). The lines as presented here are not as accurate

as if they were surveyed but they are a very close picture of what exists on the ground.

To display the activity year by year, I have used a seasonal approach which conforms to the exploration activity. That is, a season 72/73 represented here is indicative of operations carried out between June 1, 1972 and May 31, 1973. I will show slides of land seismic exploration for each year.

1971/1972

This period is an overlap from the preceeding administrative method of handling exploration activity prior to proglamation of the Territorial Land Use Regulations. Therefore some of the activity is recorded on the maps drawn prior to this 1971/72 series. I will discuss, using slides:

1. Number of wells drilled during each period
2. Areal trend of wells
3. Miles of seismic completed under Territorial Land Use Regulations.
4. Areal trend of seismic
5. Summer drilling

Each yearly series illustrates the exploration activity between June of one year and May of the following year. The maps show that 1972/73 was a busy period of exploration. Large size seismic projects were conducted during this period which covered most of the Delta. There was one summer seismic project conducted in the Caribou Hills area in July and August 1972 (I will discuss.)

1. Number of wells drilled
2. Time of year drilling was done
3. Well locations and areal trends
4. Artificial island construction
5. Number of miles of seismic on land

6. Number of miles of seismic off shore that was associated with a land use permit
7. Size of seismic programs and areal trends
8. Illustration of 1972-73 period overlaid on 1971-72.

The 1973-74 series includes exploration activity between June 1973 and May 1974. This map illustrates that this was another year of heavy activity in the Delta. I will discuss the details of the 1973-74 program and illustrate combined work of the three seasons with an overlay map.

The 1974-1975 series includes activity between June 1974 and May 1975. The map shows that seismic work projects are smaller and less total miles were done than in the two previous years. Will illustrate activity 1971 to May 1975 on composite.

The 1975-1976 series includes activity completed between June 1975 and present. In addition, we have a running series which shows all outstanding land use operation. That is those are the programs that have not been finalized, active or proposed.

I have been asked to comment on trends in equipment and techniques used in exploration. The major improvements which affect the environment include:

1. Wood chip, gravel, and piling constructed camp and drilling platforms used during summer operations.
2. Helicopter portable Drilling Rigs.
3. Wide pads on tracked vehicles and wide sleigh runners.
4. Mushroom shoes on bulldozer blades.
5. Smaller vehicles with less ground pressure for scouting lines and access routes prior to movement of heavy equipment. In rough terrain helicopters are also used for this.



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6. Vehicles with large low-pressure tires to reduce ground pressure. These include converted Kenworth Trucks commonly called "sows", and the Rolligon.
7. Forced-air oil fire incinerators to dispose of combustible material.
8. Sumps for disposal of sewage and drilling fluids.



1. Selection with extra large specimens of the same
2. General remarks. These should be written on separate
3. These remarks should be written on the back of the
4. Specimens of the same material should be placed in
5. Separate packets.
6. Keep the packets in separate boxes or bags.